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UNCLAS TEGUCIGALPA 001181

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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION ON JOINT U.S.-HONDURAN MILITARY BASE
SOTO CANO/PALMEROLA, MAY 31, 2005

1. On 05/29 the Tegucigalpa-based liberal daily "La Tribuna" published an op-ed by Habencio Varela Montoya entitled "Important for Hondurans." "Brothers in pain and misery, to take decisions at the national level must be our alternative in light of the precarious economic situation in our country. The suggestion of honest and worthy elements that look outside our national borders has brought to our attention the importance of a permanent place for the export of Honduran products."

"Mother nature is prodigious; unfortunately, decision makers in our country won't take the steps necessary to make Honduras a place of well being and greatness for all. I want to refer to the incomparable Airbase Palmerola, which we know is the Promised Land for existing sophisticated airplanes. The other port in the Atlantic, Puerto Cortes, should be called number one in Central America."

Palmer